

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for applying coating materials to a deck or deck-like surface of the type having a plurality of relatively flat, elongated ~~surfaces~~ members, wherein at least some of the flat, elongated members ~~are spaced apart by a gap~~ and wherein the ~~at least some~~ members have opposed surfaces in the gap ~~are spaced apart by a gap~~, the apparatus comprising:
 - a) a generally flat coating applicator pad having at least one ~~coating delivery channel~~ fluid passageway therethrough for delivery of coating material at a planar application surface of the pad;
 - b) a plurality of bristles extending out of the planar surface of the pad for applying the coating material to the opposed surfaces of the members in the gap.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bristles are flexible.
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bristles are natural fibers.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bristles are synthetic filaments.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the synthetic filaments are formed of a polymeric material.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the polymeric material is a polyamide.
7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pad includes at least one ~~recess~~ aperture for receiving the plurality of bristles when the pad is moved across a planar surface and the bristles are not aligned with the gap, allowing the pad to remain in contact with the planar surface.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the recess aperture extends on both sides of the bristles.
9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one coating delivery channel providing coating material to the plurality of bristles.
10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of bristles comprise a first group of bristles oriented along a first axis in a first direction and at a first angle of less than 90° to the planar surface of the pad.
11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first angle is about 67.5 degrees with respect to the planar surface of the pad.
12. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the plurality of bristles comprise a second group of bristles oriented along a second axis in a second direction and at a second angle to the planar surface of the pad, wherein the second angle is generally equal to the first angle and wherein the second direction is generally opposite to the first direction.
13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the second group of bristles is spaced apart from the first group of bristles.
14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the second group of bristles is spaced about 0.08 inches from the first group of bristles.
15. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus further includes
 - c) a baseplate attached to the pad; and
 - d) a handle having a handle axis, the handle pivotably connected to the baseplate.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the plurality of bristles are spaced about $[\boxed{\quad}]$ one and one quarter inches from the handle axis when the handle is perpendicular to the applicator pad.
17. (withdrawn) A method of applying coating material to a generally planar deck or deck-like surface comprising the steps of:
 - a) applying the coating material to the generally planar surface by delivering the coating material to a generally flat coating applicator pad through at least one delivery channel adjacent the applicator pad; and
 - b) simultaneously applying the coating material to opposed surfaces of the members in the gap by delivering the coating material to the opposed surfaces using a plurality of bristles extending out of the planar surface.
18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the bristles are flexible.
19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the pad includes at least one recess adjacent the plurality of bristles and wherein the method further comprises the additional step of:
 - c. moving the plurality of bristles into the recess by moving the pad across a planar surface to a condition wherein the plurality of bristles are not aligned with the gap.
20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17 further including an additional step before step b) of
 - a1) delivering the coating material to the plurality of bristles through at least one bristle fluid delivery channel adjacent the applicator pad.
21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein step a1) further comprises delivering the coating material from the bristle fluid delivery channel to the plurality of bristles via gravity.